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The Cleveland Foundation Awards Grant to The Cleveland Museum of Art

$229,500 Awarded for Interpretive Strategies and Reinstallation of the African Gallery

CLEVELAND (Feb. 10, 2003) — The Cleveland Foundation recently awarded $229,500 to the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) for reinstallation of its African Art Gallery and interpretive strategies.

The newly acquired funding will support the reinstallation of the CMA's African Galleries utilizing interpretive strategies that will serve essentially as a "beta site" for future installations as new galleries are installed.

A significant component of this support will be dedicated to the engagement of a curatorial intern who will be integrally involved in the redesign and reinstallation process. This intern will serve as a liaison with the region's African-American community to ensure the installation's relevance and respect for African American cultural heritage. The African collection includes approximately 300 works from the major cultural centers of western and central Africa. In addition, the grant will be used to support travel by teams of curators and educators to leading museums that have demonstrated new and innovative interpretive strategies in order to identify and formulate a best practices model for the CMA.

Museum Director Katherine Lee Reid emphasized the importance of the grant and its impact on the museum's future. "We have one of the most comprehensive permanent collections in the nation," she said. "The generosity of The Cleveland Foundation, now affords us an opportunity to articulate our African art collection in a more innovative, meaningful manner."

As a result of the grant, the museum has come closer to supporting a vision for a new Cleveland Museum of Art that demonstrates its inclusiveness, accessibility and dedication to life-long learning through the presentation of its collections that relate in a personal, emotional, intellectual and spiritual way to all museum visitors.

The Cleveland Foundation, a public charity dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Greater Cleveland, is the original and second-largest community foundation in the nation. Its establishment in 1914 is cited as one of 10 events that most heavily influenced the development of the nonprofit sector in the 20th Century and it continues to be a leader in its field. The Foundation has assets of approximately $1.5 billion and in 2001 awarded more than $74 million in grants and low-cost loans to Cleveland area nonprofit organizations. www.clevelandfoundation.org.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth spanning 6,000 years. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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